

## FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION Washington, DC 20463

Chris Gober, Esq. The Gober Group P.O. Box 341016 Austin, TX 78734 APR 2 9 2016

RE:

MUR 6919

Francisco Canseco

Canseco for Congress and Randy Blair in his official capacity as

treasurer

Dear Mr. Gober:

On April 22, 2016, the Federal Election Commission accepted the signed conciliation agreement submitted on your client's behalf in settlement of violations of 52 U.S.C. §§ 30121, 30116(f), and 30104(b), provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended. Accordingly, the file has been closed in this matter.

Documents related to the case will be placed on the public record within 30 days. See Statement of Policy Regarding Disclosure of Closed Enforcement and Related Files, 68 Fed. Reg. 70,426 (Dec. 18, 2003) and Statement of Policy Regarding Placing First General Counsel's Reports on the Public Record, 74 Fed. Reg. 66,132 (Dec. 14, 2009). Information derived in connection with any conciliation attempt will not become public without the written consent of the respondent and the Commission. See 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(4)(B).

Enclosed you will find a copy of the fully executed conciliation agreement for your files. Please note that the civil penalty is due within 180 days of the conciliation agreement's effective date. If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 694-1650.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Guith

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Acting Associate General Counsel for

Enforcement

Enclosure
Conciliation Agreement

## BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

In the Matter of	)
	) MUR 6919
Francisco Canseco	)
	)
Canseco for Congress and Randy	)
Blair in his official capacity	)
as treasurer	)

## **CONCILIATION AGREEMENT**

This matter was generated from a Commission audit of Canseco for Congress (the "Committee") pursuant to 52 U.S.C. § 30111(b) (formerly 2 U.S.C. § 438(b)) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended (the "Act"). Based on the available information, the Commission found reason to believe that Canseco for Congress and Randy Blair in his official capacity as treasurer (the "Committee") violated 52 U.S.C. §§ 30121, 30116(f), and 30104(b) (formerly 2 U.S.C. §§ 441e, 441a(f), and 434(b)). The Commission also found reason to believe that Francisco Canseco violated 52 U.S.C. §§ 30121 and 30116(f) (formerly 2 U.S.C. §§ 441e and 441a(f)).

NOW, THEREFORE, the Commission and Respondents, having participated in informal methods of conciliation, prior to a finding of probable cause to believe that a violation has occurred, and having agreed to settle, compromise, and resolve this matter without the expense of further proceedings, do hereby enter into this Conciliation Agreement (the "Agreement"), which provides as follows:

I. The Commission has jurisdiction over Respondents and the subject matter of this proceeding, and this agreement has the effect of an agreement entered pursuant to 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(4)(A)(i) (formerly 2 U.S.C. § 437g(a)(4)(A)(i)).

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- II. Respondents have had a reasonable opportunity to demonstrate that no action should be taken in this matter.
  - III. Respondents enter voluntarily into this agreement with the Commission.
  - IV. The pertinent facts in this matter are as follows:
- 1. Canseco for Congress is the principal campaign committee for Francisco Canseco, a candidate for Congress from the 23<sup>rd</sup> District of Texas in the 2010 election. Randy Blair is its treasurer. Inmuebles Caza S.A. de C.V. ("Caza") is a foreign corporation organized in Mexico and wholly owned by Canseco Investments, Ltd, a Texas Limited Partnership.
- 2. The Act and Commission regulations prohibit any person from knowingly soliciting, accepting, or receiving a contribution from a foreign national. 52 U.S.C. § 30121 (formerly 2 U.S.C. § 441e); 11 C.F.R. § 110.20(g).
- 3. Under the Act, no candidate or political committee shall knowingly accept any contribution that is in excess of the Act's amount limitations. See 52 U.S.C. § 30116(f) (formerly 2 U.S.C. § 441a(f)).
- 4. The Act also requires political committees to report all contributions and expenditures. 52 U.S.C. § 30104 (formerly 2 U.S.C. § 434(b)).
- 5. The Commission found that on January 29, 2010, and April 13, 2010, Caza made two contributions totaling \$100,000 to Francisco Canseco, which he received in his personal account and then transmitted to the Committee. As a result, the Commission found that Francisco Canseco and the Committee knowingly accepted or received a prohibited contribution from a foreign national and that \$44,605 remains unresolved.
- 6. The Commission found that Francisco Canseco received a \$150,000 contribution from an individual on April 27, 2010, and \$30,000 in contributions from three

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individuals in December 2009, all of which he transmitted to the Committee, resulting in the knowing receipt of excessive contributions in the amount of \$170,343, and that \$10,050 remains unresolved.

- 7. The Commission found reason to believe that the Committee misstated its financial activity during calendar years 2009 and 2010 as follows: (1) Overstated its 2009 beginning cash-on-hand by \$32,344; (2) Understated its 2009 receipts by \$13,161; (3) Understated its 2009 disbursements by \$31,048; (4) Overstated its 2009 ending cash-on-hand by \$50,231; (5) Overstated its 2010 beginning cash-on-hand by \$50,231; (6) Overstated its 2010 receipts by \$324,404; (7) Overstated its 2010 disbursements by \$313,123; (8) Overstated its 2010 ending cash-on-hand by \$61,512.
- V. Solely for the purpose of settling this matter expeditiously and to avoid the expense of litigation, without admitting liability in this proceeding or with respect to any other proceeding, the Respondents agree not to further contest this matter after the Commission found reason to believe that the Respondents violated the Act as follows:
- 1. Respondents violated 52 U.S.C. § 30121 and (formerly 2 U.S.C. § 441e) by knowingly accepting a prohibited foreign contribution.
- 2. Respondents violated 52 U.S.C. § 30116(f) (formerly 2 U.S.C. § 441a(f)) by knowingly accepting excessive contributions from individuals.
- 3. The Committee violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(b) (formerly 2 U.S.C. § 434(b)) by misstating its financial activity for calendar years 2009 and 2010.
- VI. Without admitting liability, the Respondents will do the following to fully resolve and settle this matter:

- 1. Pay a civil penalty to the Federal Election Commission in the amount of Twenty-Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$22,500), pursuant to 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(5)(A) (formerly 2 U.S.C. § 437g(a)(5)(A)). In ordinary circumstances, the Commission would seek a substantially higher civil penalty based on the violations outlined in this agreement. However, the Commission is taking into account that the Committee represents that it has limited funds, lacks the ability to raise additional funds, and intends to file a termination report with the Commission, which will be processed in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Act and Commission regulations. In addition, Francisco Canseco has demonstrated financial hardship preventing the payment of a civil penalty commensurate with the violations outlined in this agreement. The Commission regards these submissions and representations as material. If evidence is uncovered indicating Respondents' financial condition is not as stated, a civil penalty of Two Hundred Ten Thousand dollars (\$210,000) shall be immediately due, pursuant to 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(5)(B) (formerly 2 U.S.C. § 437g(a)(5)(B)).
- 2. Cease and desist from violating 52 U.S.C. §§ 30121, 30116(f), and 30104(b) (formerly 2 U.S.C. §§ 441e, 441a(f) and 434(b)).
- 3. Amend their disclosure reports for all relevant time periods to accurately reflect its activity.
- VII. The Commission, on request of anyone filing a complaint under 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(1) (formerly 2 U.S.C. § 437g(a)(1)) concerning the matters at issue herein or on its own motion, may review compliance with this agreement. If the Commission believes that this agreement or any requirement thereof has been violated, it may institute a civil action for relief in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia.

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- This agreement shall become effective as of the date that all parties hereto have executed the same and the Commission has approved the entire agreement.
- IX. Respondents shall have no more than ninety (90) days from the date this agreement becomes effective to comply with and implement the requirements contained in this agreement and to so notify the Commission. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Respondents shall have no more than one hundred eighty (180) days from the date this agreement becomes effective to pay the civil penalty specified above.
- X. This Conciliation Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties on the matters raised herein, and no other statement, promise, or agreement, either written or oral, made by either party or by agents of either party, that is not contained in this written agreement shall be enforceable.

FOR THE COMMISSION:

BY:

Acting Associate General Counsel

for Enforcement

on Francisco R. Canseco

**Canseco For Congress** 

April 7, 2016

Date